



# Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

## **From the Director**

**September 2015**

Did you ever have one of those times when things just kept piling up? Take this newsletter as an example. It really should have gone out 10 days ago. That pretty much describes this first part of September in the SELS office. I'll be honest, things slipped through the cracks and sat by the wayside. Opportunities have been missed and toes have been stubbed. Insert whatever metaphor or analogy you would like – it would probably be appropriate to the first part of September. I apologize for any delays in getting back to you during this time.

Thankfully things are looking up. We've hired a new assistant director and a new administrative assistant and they should be getting up to speed over the next few months. We'll provide a full introduction to them in next month's newsletter. After the initial adjustment and training period, we should be able to be more responsive to your questions and requests than before.

With new staff members come new points of view. This newsletter will probably see some tweaks over the next month as the new staff begin to put their personalities into it. There may be some new services we can provide as things are looked at with fresh eyes and minds.

So with an apology and a promise that we will continue to try to serve your needs as best we can — here is this month's newsletter.

Scott Childers, Executive Director  
Southeast Library System

## **In this Issue:**

**Page 1**—From the Director

**Page 2**—Calendar

**Page 3**—CASTL Wrap-Up

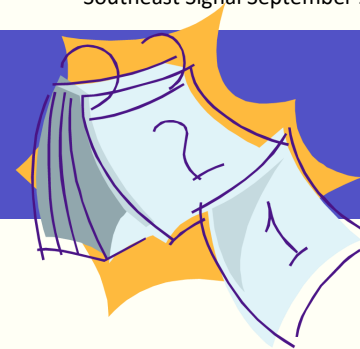
**Page 4-5**—News Around the System

**Page 6**—From the SELS Office

**Page 7—11**—Additional Flyers

**Page 12**—Back Page

# Calendar



**September 25th**—CASTL Meeting at Superior Public Library

**September 26th**—National Johnny Appleseed Day

**September 29th**—International Coffee Day

**October 1**—National Homemade cookies Day

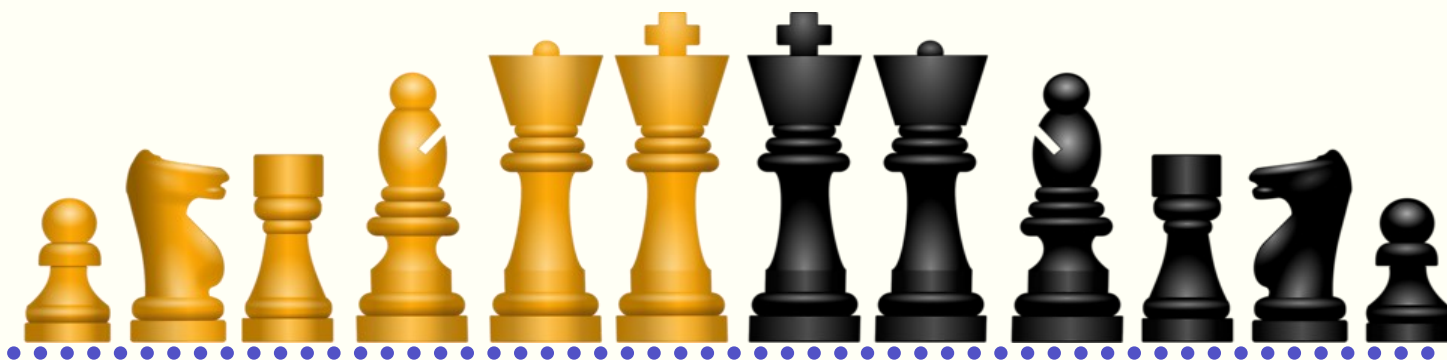
**October 10**—National Chess Day

**October 12**—Columbus Day, SELS Office closed

**October 14—16th**—NLA/NSLA Annual Conference, Lincoln

**October 15**—National “I Love Lucy” Day

**October 23**—CASTL Meeting at Central City Public Library



## Photo of the Month



Stephanie Grace Whitson (left) autographs her newest book “Daughters of the Regiment” for Fairmont Public Library board member Georgia Schropfer

Photo used with permission of photographer Leesa Bartu .

See more on Page 4

# CASTL Wrap-Up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

September 25  
Superior

October 23  
Central City

November 20  
Syracuse

December 10  
Fairmont

The latest CASTL meeting was held at the Pawnee City Public Library on August 21 and hosted by Director Lola Seitz. We started out the day with a training session on writing in a more formal manner run by Scott Childers. The session started with the group trying to define what formal writing was and what it looked like. This type of writing is what you use for things like strategic plans, grant proposals, or policies. Some examples were shared and the session ended in a small exercise in formal writing. Despite the topic, everyone seemed to have some fun while going through this hour.

Our round robin brought up some interesting discussions about building maintenance and strategic planning from across the area.

The cooperative purchase of Zinio online magazine access was brought up and people were referred to Jake Rundle at Hastings Public Library for more information or if they were interested in joining.

A delicate situation was brought up by one of the librarians. A frequent patron was coming in and seemed to be having some issues, It wasn't clear if it was a mental health issue or possible abuse. Some brainstorming and discussion occurred on where a small town librarian's place is in those types of situations where everybody knows everybody else and how to handle this type of situation.

## What is CASTL?

CASTL is a monthly meeting where public library directors can get together and learn from one another. Each meeting has a round-robin discussion where everyone can share what's going on at their library, followed by a training discussion or presentation. There is CE credit available for all attendees! See the schedule on the left for where we'll be meeting next!

## Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

Registration will be open soon for the next set of basic skills courses, offered through the Nebraska Library Commission. To see the full calendar & register for classes, [click here](#). Here's what's coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration Open</u>
Oct. 19—Oct. 30	Management and Supervisions	September 11—October 9
Nov. 2—Nov. 13	Leadership	September 25—October 23
Nov. 30—Dec. 11	Library Service to Children & Youth	October 23—November 20

# News Around the System

## Historical truth with fictional finesse

*Adapted from a  
story by Leesa  
Bartu*

The evening of Wednesday, June 3, found a small group in Fairmont eagerly awaiting the arrival of an author who has embraced Nebraska as her home and found her niche writing about the pioneering spirit of women in the state.

The majority of Whitson's books are about Nebraska history, are well-researched and true to fact, but are entertaining as well. Whitson gave a background of her newest book "Daughter of the Regiment," which immerses the reader into the world of the Civil War.

Her visit to Fairmont came out of one of her "bunny trails." In 1978, while visiting the Nebraska History Museum, Whitson noticed a quilt on the outside of the sod house replica in the museum and became intrigued when she read the back story of the quilt.

The quilt was made by the daughters of Mattie and Uriah Oblinger from the maternity dresses Mattie wore before she died in childbirth. That information triggered research on Whitson's part, leading her to a vast storehouse of letters and photos of the Oblinger family who homesteaded in Fillmore County.

During her research on this family, which has now spanned over three decades, Whitson could never find the location of Mattie's grave until she contacted Fairmont Librarian Wanda Marget. Marget found the cemetery and grave at the Fairview Cemetery. Whitson had shared some of the Oblinger family history in her book, "Home on the Plains: Quilts and the Sod House Experience," but is dabbling with expanding it into a book based on their life and love story.

## Author Alex George Speaks in Seward

*By Charlotte  
Baldinger*

Seward Memorial Library will host author Alex George on Sunday, October 4. George will talk about his debut novel, *A Good American*, which was selected as the 2015 All Seward Reads Together title. George, who was born in England and currently lives in Missouri, will share the Meisenheimer family saga spanning four generations, from a couple's flight out of Germany in 1904 to the changing times of their great-grandchildren. George chronicles much of the 20th Century through the eyes of this fictional Missouri family. He examines the elements of small town life and all of the loves and complications involved within a family as they aspire to be "a good American." George's program begins at 2 p.m. and everyone is welcome. His books will be available for purchase and signing. Refreshments will be served.

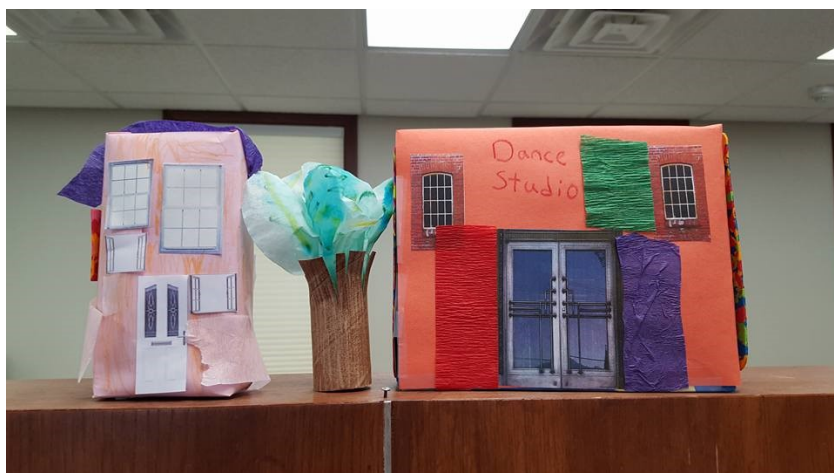


# News Around the System

## Box City built in Auburn Public Library

By Heather Koenek

On September 1st, the call went out for construction workers to build buildings for our Mini Box City. All materials are provided and available during library hours and there is no age limit. Several workers have stepped up to the challenge and we have quite the city popping up! We have a library, the city pool, the city wellness center, Gateway mall, a dance studio, the Empire state building, numerous other businesses and several houses. We also have the Mac n Cheese restaurant, which I was told ONLY serves mac n cheese!



Check out our Makerspace table in the Exhibits Hall during Open Hours at the October 15-16 NLA/NSLA Conference

- ➔ Quilling
- ➔ Legos
- ➔ Sew a Christmas ornament
- ➔ Papercraft

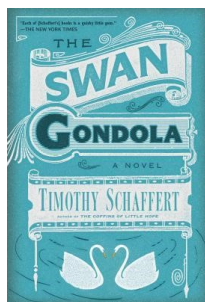


Sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems

# From the SELS Office

## One Book, Many Librarians—Now Including Graphic Novels!

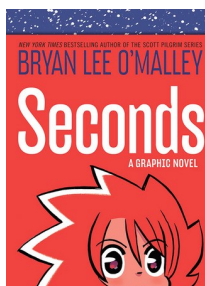
Each year at the NLA Conference in October, SELS has hosted a session called “One Book, Many Librarians”, where librarians all across the region can come together for a fun book discussion towards the end of the day. The title for this year’s discussion is *The Swan Gondola* by Timothy Schaffert.



On the eve of the 1898 Omaha World’s Fair, Ferret Skerritt, ventriloquist by trade, con man by birth, isn’t quite sure how it will change him or his city. Omaha still has the marks of a filthy Wild West town, even as it attempts to achieve the grandeur and respectability of nearby Chicago. But when he crosses paths with the beautiful and enigmatic Cecily, his whole purpose shifts and the fair becomes the backdrop to their love affair.

One of a traveling troupe of actors that has descended on the city, Cecily works in the Midway’s Chamber of Horrors, where she loses her head hourly on a guillotine playing Marie Antoinette. And after closing, she rushes off, clinging protectively to a mysterious carpetbag, never giving Ferret a second glance. But a moonlit ride on the swan gondola, a boat on the lagoon of the New White City, changes everything, and the fair’s magic begins to take its effect. (From [Goodreads.com](http://Goodreads.com).)

For the first time this year, there will also be a “One Graphic Novel, Many Librarians” session. Since graphic novels are a different type of book, they may generate a different type of book discussion. This year’s title is *Seconds* by Bryan Lee O’Malley.



Katie’s got it pretty good. She’s a talented young chef, she runs a successful restaurant, and she has big plans to open an even better one. Then, all at once, progress on the new location bogs down, her charming ex-boyfriend pops up, her fling with another chef goes sour, and her best waitress gets badly hurt. And just like that, Katie’s life goes from pretty good to not so much. What she needs is a second chance. Everybody deserves one, after all—but they don’t come easy. Luckily for Katie, a mysterious girl appears in the middle of the night with simple instructions for a do-it-yourself do-over:

*Write your mistake, ingest one mushroom, go to sleep, wake anew.*

And just like that, all the bad stuff never happened, and Katie is given another chance to get things right. She’s also got a dresser drawer full of magical mushrooms—and an irresistible urge to make her life not just good, but perfect. Too bad it’s against the rules. But Katie doesn’t care about the rules—and she’s about to discover the unintended consequences of the best intentions. (From [Goodreads.com](http://Goodreads.com).)

## REACHING TEENS AND YOUTH THROUGH GRAPHIC NOVELS

Preconference—Wednesday

October 14th from 1:00-5:00

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

Presenter: Kat Kan

Register at: [nebraskalibraries.site-ym.com/?page=NebLib2015](http://nebraskalibraries.site-ym.com/?page=NebLib2015)

Graphic novels and manga have provided a fun way for busy teens to read. The format has evolved over the past few decades and has become much more than the superhero-centric form most people think of as comics. Nowadays, many graphic novels and manga appeal to children - thanks mostly to Raina Telgemeier, Kazu Kibuishi, and Jennifer and Matthew Holm and the Eisner Awards expanded their youth categories to three age levels. Kat Kan will talk about the many genres, diversity in comics, resources for building and augmenting collections, programming, and classroom use. Whether you work in a public or school library, you can find help, ideas, and inspiration for using graphic novels with your teens and youth.



Katharine "Kat" Kan has been reading comics for 50 years. She earned her B.A. (1977) and M.L.S. (1981) at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. She has worked as a children's and then young adult librarian for public libraries in Hawaii and Indiana, and she is now a part-time school librarian in the Florida Panhandle. Kat edited *Graphic Novels and Comic Books* published by H.W. Wilson and has been writing about graphic novels in libraries since 1994, mostly for *Voice of Youth Advocates* (VOYA)

According to Kat, "graphic novels belong in libraries because they should always be part of the whole reading mix, just like any other kind of book. "I grew up reading comics, classics, history, biography, the encyclopedia, all kinds of genre fiction. When you read a graphic novel, you need to read the art as well as the text, so your brain gets a total workout!"

Sponsored by Nebraska Regional Library Systems



# *A Celebration of Nebraska Books*



**Nov. 14, 2015  
2:30 - 6:30**



**NEBRASKA  
LIBRARY  
COMMISSION**  
1200 N Street  
Lincoln, NE

## ***JOIN US TO CELEBRATE:***

2015 One Book One Nebraska

*Death Zones & Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting  
by Beverly Deepe Kever*

Nebraska Book Award Winners

2016 One Book One Nebraska Announcement

Jane Geske Award Presentation

Reception and Book Signings

*More Info:*

**[centerforthebook.nebraska.gov](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov)**

**[facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook](https://facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook)**



# Celebration of Nebraska Books

## Save the Date for 2015 Celebration of Nebraska Books

The Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held November 14, 2015, from 2:30 - 6:30 p.m., at the Nebraska Library Commission at 1200 N Street, in downtown Lincoln. This event, free and open to the public, will feature a presentation on the 2015 One Book One Nebraska book selection, honor winners of the 2015 Jane Geske and Nebraska Book Awards, and announce the reading selection for the 2016 One Book One Nebraska.

The 2015 Nebraska Book Awards honor authors and publishers of books with a Nebraska connection published in 2014. Featured winning authors will read from their work and sign copies of their books. The 2015 Jane Geske Award will be presented to a Nebraska organization for exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, or literature in Nebraska. The

Jane Geske Award commemorates Geske's passion for books, and was established in recognition of her contributions to the well-being of the libraries of Nebraska. Jane Pope Geske was a founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, former director of the Nebraska Library Commission, and a long-time leader in Nebraska library and literary activities.

This year the Celebration marks the eleventh year of One Book One Nebraska—selecting and promoting a book for Nebraska citizens to read to celebrate the literary richness of our state. *Death Zones & Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting* (University of Nebraska Press, 2013) by Beverly Deepe Kever is the 2015 One Book One Nebraska selection, and Nebraska libraries and other literary and cultural organizations across the state are hosting activities and events to encourage all Nebraskans to read and discuss the same book (see [onebook.nebraska.gov/2015/index.aspx](http://onebook.nebraska.gov/2015/index.aspx)).

The Nebraska Center for the Book Annual Meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m.—just prior to the November 14 Celebration of Nebraska Books. An Awards Reception honoring the winning authors, book signings, and announcement of the 2016 One Book One Nebraska book choice will conclude the festivities. The 2015 Celebration of Nebraska Books is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, and University of Nebraska Press—with Humanities Nebraska supporting the One Book One Nebraska presentation. For more information see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/celebration.html>.

# 2015 Fall RAN Workshop



Friday, November 6  
Seward Memorial Library  
233 South 5th Street  
Seward, Nebraska



*Fall into reading aloud and discover a harvest of ideas!*

## Keynote Speakers:

### **Michael Sullivan** *via Skype*

Librarian and author of *Raising Boy Readers*

#### **Why Does Being a Boy Matter in Reading, and Why Reading Aloud Matters to Boys**

Why does reading aloud mean so much to boys? Because their world is designed to leave behind those who need reading the most.

### **John Kalkowski**

Author of *Red Cell*, a past Golden Sower Award Nominee

#### **Aloud and Alive!**

John will speak about his novels and being an author. He will also share some of his insights on reading aloud from his many years of being a reading teacher and a parent

---

### **Advance registration - \$25**

*Must be postmarked by October 30.*

*Please fill out the registration form on the back.*

### **Online registration - \$30**

*Must be submitted by October 30.*

*Credit cards are accepted via PayPal, no PayPal account needed.*

[www.readaloudnebraska.org](http://www.readaloudnebraska.org)

### **Onsite registration - \$30**

*Refreshments and lunch are not included.*

Advance and Online registrations  
include lunch sponsored by  
Runza Restaurants!



## Agenda

**8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

Registration, Coffee and Book Sales

**9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.**

Welcome by Sally Ganem

**9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

Breakout Session 1

**10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

Michael Sullivan

**11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Breakout Session 2

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Lightning Round Lunch

**1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.**

Breakout Session 3

**2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.**

Breakout Session 4

**3:00 - 3:45 p.m.**

John Kalkowski

**3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Closing and Evaluations

*Earn up to 7 Hours of CE Credit!*

*Ted Kooser will be available  
to autograph books!*

*Questions? [info@readaloudnebraska.org](mailto:info@readaloudnebraska.org)*

**Breakout Session 1 - 9:15-10:00****a Reading-PUPS***Sharon Rowse, Reading-PUPS Coordinator*

Reading-PUPS is a Domesti-PUPS program that uses certified therapy dogs offering a fun, unique alternative for improving children's reading skills.

**b Literacy Through Drama***Lincoln Community Theater*

Representatives of the Lincoln Community Theater will talk about the various ways they promote literacy and how they partner with their next-door neighbors: the Charles H. Gere Branch of Lincoln City Libraries.

**c Middle Level Read-Alouds***Vicki Wood, Lincoln City Libraries*

Vicki will present good choices for reading aloud to middle school age; she believes kids are never too old to be read to.

**Breakout Session 2 - 11:15-12:00****a Toddler/Preschool Read-Alouds and More!***Sandy Wallick, Lincoln City Libraries*

Sandy will present titles good for reading aloud to toddlers/preschool age and provide some fun activities for the children to enhance the stories. You may pick up a technique or activity you haven't tried before to keep the little ones involved in the story.

**b Everyday Reading Ideas for a Busy World***Tricia Parker, Nebraska Department of Education*

We've all read the headlines telling us that reading to children boosts everything from self-confidence to academic performance, but sometimes life gets hectic! Join us to hear about practical ways to incorporate reading into your day and ways to make read-alouds fun and interactive experiences.

**c Read Aloud Nebraska and First Book***Megan Boggs, Seward Memorial Library*

Explore the resources available through Read Aloud Nebraska and learn how you can register your school or organization with First Book to receive nearly free books for children in need!

**Breakout Session 3 - 1:00-1:45****a Read-Aloud Picture and Early Chapter Books***Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission*

Sally will present good read aloud choices of picture books and early chapter books for Kindergarten through second grade.

**b Leading to Reading***Megan Boggs, Seward Memorial Library*

Learn about the literacy and read-aloud postcard program for newborns through age 5 that was developed by staff at the Seward Memorial Library.

**c Expanding the Walls of Your Library***Molly Aschoff, Distance Ed. Coordinator, ESU #8*

Come and see how you can go most anywhere or connect with most any expert or museum without leaving your library. Learn how to find virtual field trips that go with individual books or themes. These are hands on two-way interactive experiences that your patrons/students will rave about!

**Breakout Session 4 - 2:00-2:45****a Read-Aloud Book Reviews for Grades 3-6***Karla Wendelin, retired librarian*

Titles for grades 3-6 good for reading aloud will be presented by Karla, a master of book reviews and of keeping kids involved with reading.

**b The Read Aloud Route: Paving Passageways for Prolific Reading***Dylan Teut, Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival Coordinator*

Reading aloud is vital in many areas of a child's life - at home and at school from the time they are born, but it is a practice that can be neglected by both parents and teachers. This session will explore the benefits, values, research, practice, and more of reading aloud to children of all ages in all settings.

**c Prime Time Family Reading***Vicki Wood, Lincoln City Libraries*

Prime Time Family Reading Time has made a huge impact on literacy in Nebraska. This session will describe the program and some of the joys and challenges of becoming a Prime Time site. Discover how this program, with Louisiana roots, has grown and prospered throughout our state.

**No purchase orders accepted.**

Please mail this registration with your check to:

Read Aloud Nebraska  
233 South 5th Street  
Seward, NE 68434

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Circle which breakout sessions you want to attend:

Breakout 1: a b c

Breakout 2: a b c

Breakout 3: a b c

Breakout 4: a b c

## System Spotlight

### Need help weeding your collection?

From a quick examination of your collection and some general suggestions to actually getting into the shelves and pulling books alongside you, give us a call and we can help!



*"One of the keys to happiness is a bad memory."*

— Rita Mae Brown

### **Southeast Library System**

Butler • Clay • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton • Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster • Merrick • Nemaha • Nuckolls •  
Otoe • Pawnee • Polk • Richardson • Saline • Saunders • Seward • Thayer • York

#### **Staff:**

Executive Director—Scott Childers  
Scott.Childers.SELS@gmail.com

Assistant Director—tba  
tba

Administrative Assistant—tba  
tba

#### **On the Web:**

<http://www.selsne.org/>

#### **Where We Are:**

5730 R St. Suite C-I  
Lincoln, NE 68505

#### **Contact Us:**

Local Phone: 402-467-6188  
Toll Free Phone: 800-288-6063  
Fax: 844-270-7004

#### **Email:**

[selsne@gmail.com](mailto:selsne@gmail.com)